

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 260

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Barbara Rodgers Alston of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Barbara Rodgers Alston of Memphis, the beloved sister of our colleague, Representative Johnnie Turner; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Rodgers Alston was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born March 4, 1946, in Memphis, Barbara Alston was the daughter of Clayton Rodgers and Charlie Mae Watson Rodgers; she accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized by Reverend W. C. Jackson at Pearly Gates Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Manassas High School, Mrs. Alston studied cosmetology and earned a reputation for her creative hair styling; she later managed her brother's store, Rodgers Grocery, for many years. This experience inspired her to pursue her own dreams of entrepreneurship and culminated in her ownership of Barbara's Flowers, where she loved being her own boss and worked tirelessly until recently; and

WHEREAS, active in her community, Barbara Alston was a former member and officer in the Jackson Mound Chapter #62 Order of the Eastern Star, Tennessee Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliation, and she was a Worthy Counselor of Pythias/Court of Calanthe #3; her competitive spirit and love of winning motivated her to win first place in many fundraising endeavors sponsored by these organizations; and

WHEREAS, a life member of the NAACP, Mrs. Alston served on the Executive Board of the Memphis Branch NAACP for fifteen years; she was recognized nationally and locally as a

member of the prestigious Club 100, a dedicated group of NAACP supporters who wrote a minimum of 100 NAACP memberships each year; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Alston was an active and devout member of Greater Middle Baptist Church, which she served faithfully for many years; her love of people and her willingness to help others inspired her to join Usher Board #1, where she was trained by Brother Charles Barrett. She was the coordinator of the church's NAACP Teenager of the Year contest and served as past chair of the annual Women's Day event; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Alston was deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Alston enjoyed the loving companionship of Tony Alston, her husband of forty-four years, and was the proud mother of Jesse James Clayton, Jr., and Alonzo Clayton, Sr.; she was treasured by her seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, she is lovingly remembered by her sisters, State Representative Johnnie Rodgers Turner, Alice Rodgers Blackburn, and Eula Rodgers Forte; her brothers, Harry E. Rodgers and Tyrone Rodgers, Sr.; and a host of others, including her extended family, the Byers, her longtime best friend Lillian "Cootie" Guy, and her special goddaughter, Mary Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Alston was preceded in death by her parents; her sons, Cornelius Calvin Clayton and Robert Lee Clayton, Sr.; her grandson, Robert Lee Clayton, Jr.; her sisters, Gloria Rodgers Smith and Beulah Rodgers Elshennau; and her brothers, Lawrence Rodgers, Benjamin Rodgers, Floyd Earl Rodgers, Barry L. Rodgers, and O'Nairy Rodgers; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Alston leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Barbara Rodgers Alston, reflecting fondly upon

her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Barbara Rodgers Alston.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.